

From: benson
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/26/02 4:04pm
Subject: USAGBenson_Peter_1071_0124

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

January 25,2002

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I would lie to briefly explain some of my feeling about the Microsoft antitrust case. I am a user and supporter of Microsoft's products. I cannot say that I agree with every decision Microsoft has made in the past, but business does not equal benevolence. I do agree that there was merit behind the issues that brought about the case, but that was three years and countless taxpayers' dollars ago. It is time to put this matter to rest. If the settlement agreement will allow that happen, then I support it.

Under the terms of the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to stop retaliating against those that design or promote non-Microsoft programs. Also, Microsoft will allow computer makers to configure Windows so as to promote those programs. A technical oversight committee will ensure that Microsoft complies with the terms of the settlement.

I do not see the need for further federal action. Nine states have already approved the agreement, and Microsoft is negotiating with the remaining states reach an agreement. I fear that some of the states are using consumer protection as a veil for return on investment, and the case may never end. I hope that your office is watching the states' motives as actively as you are watching Microsoft.

Sincerely,

Peter Benson
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